

**South Carolina
AMBER ALERT
A Partnership of Law Enforcement & Broadcasting**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2006**

The AMBER Alert Oversight Committee, along with the United States Postal Service, law enforcement officials, and families of recovered children, gathered in Columbia today for the unveiling of a new postage stamp to commemorate the history of the National AMBER Alert system. The new postage stamp consists of a chalk pastel illustration that depicts a mother and child entwined in each others arms. The stamp will serve as part of the organization's ongoing efforts to raise awareness of America's missing and exploited children, reunite missing children with their families, and to make child protection a national priority.

The U.S. Postal Service continues to draw attention to important social causes by honoring the AMBER Alert System on National Missing Children's Day. First proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1983, the U.S. continues to observe May 25th as National Missing Children's Day, after 6-year old Etan Patz disappeared from a New York City street corner on his way to school in 1979.

The Amber Alert Oversight Committee is a voluntary partnership with representatives from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, the South Carolina Sheriff's Association, the South Carolina Police Chiefs' Association, the South Carolina Broadcasters Association, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, the South Carolina Department of Social Services, and the National Weather Service.

AMBER Alert is named after nine-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was tragically kidnapped and murdered in 1996. AMBER is an acronym for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response system. South Carolina's AMBER Alert system was implemented in 2002. To learn more about the AMBER Alert system, please visit the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division's website at www.sled.sc.us, or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's website at www.missingkids.com. The stamp may be viewed at www.usps.com/shop.

